

00862.023319

PATENT APPLICATION

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:

Ken MATSUMOTO

Application No.: 10/ 718,678

Filed: November 24, 2003

For: TRANSPORT APPARATUS

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: Examiner: Unassigned  
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: Group Art Unit: Unassigned  
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:  
) January 21, 2004

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Sir:

In compliance with the duty of disclosure under 37 C.F.R. § 1.56 and in accordance with the practice under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.97 and 1.98, the Examiner's attention is directed to the documents listed on the enclosed PTO-1449 form. Copies of the Japanese patent documents are also enclosed.

Japanese patent document numbers 2001-133960 and 2001-133961 are discussed on page 9 of the subject specification. Japanese patent document number 2001-133960 corresponds to U.S. Patent No. 6,593,034 and U.S. patent application publication number 2003/0207182.

Japanese patent document number 2001-500669 is discussed on pages 10-11 of the subject specification and corresponds to U.S. Patent No. 5,879,458, No. 6,042,651, No. 6,221,163, No. 6,368,411 and U.S. patent application publication number 2001/0042439.

Applicant requests that the above information be considered by the Examiner and that a copy of the enclosed PTO-1449 form be initialed and returned indicating that such information has been considered.

This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed before the issuance of a first Office Action on the merits. Therefore, no fee under 37 C.F.R. 1.97(c)(2) is believed due. Nevertheless, the Commissioner may charge Deposit Account No. 06-1205, should any fee be due for filing this paper.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our address given below.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Steven E. Warner", is written over a horizontal line.

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SEW/eab



<b>FORM PTO 1449 (modified)</b>  U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE  LIST OF REFERENCES CITED BY APPLICANT(S) (Use several sheets if necessary)  January 21, 2004				ATTY DOCKET NO. 00862.023319		APPLICATION NO. 10/718,678	
				APPLICANT Ken MATSUMOTO			
				FILING DATE November 24, 2003		GROUP Unassigned	
U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS							
*EXAMINER INITIAL		DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	NAME	CLASS	SUBCLASS	FILING DATE IF APPROPRIATE
		US-5,879,458	03/09/1999	Roberson, Jr. et al.	118	715	
		US-6,042,651	03/28/2000	Roberson, Jr. et al.	118	715	
		US-6,221,163 B1	04/24/2001	Roberson, Jr. et al.	118	715	
		US-6,368,411 B2	04/09/2002	Roberson, Jr. et al.	118	715	
		US-6,517,304 B1	02/11/2003	Matsumoto	414	217	
		US-6,593,034 B1	07/15/2003	Shirasaki	430	5	
		2001/0042439 A1	11/22/2001	Roberson, Jr. et al.	95	8	
		2002/0020751 A1	02/21/2002	Matsumoto	235	487	
		2003/0053894 A1	03/20/2003	Matsumoto	414	217	
		2003/0207182 A1	11/06/2003	Shirasaki	430	5	
FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS							
		DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	COUNTRY	CLASS	SUBCLASS	TRANSLATION YES/NO/ OR ABSTRACT
		5-114540	05/07/1993	Japan			Abstract
		11-109606	04/23/1999	Japan			Abstract
		2001-500669	01/16/2001	Japan			Abstract
		2001-133960	05/18/2001	Japan			Abstract
		2001-133961	05/18/2001	Japan			Abstract
OTHER DOCUMENT(S) (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)							
EXAMINER				DATE CONSIDERED			

\*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.